

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 582

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, IT, XG

SUBJECT: EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF: STOCKHOLM'S 2812; PARIS 2234

1. ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS CISL AND UIL HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY REACTED TO PROJECTED JANUARY 1974 EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, BUT CISL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR FARIZIA BADUEL WHO PRESENT RECENT STOCKHOLM MEETING STRONGLY NEGATIVE. ITALIANS UNINVITED AND UNAWARE OF JULY VIENNA MEETING AT WHICH DECISION TO HOLD JANUARY 1974 EAST-WEST MEETING TAKEN. ACCORDIGN BADUEL VIENNA SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WITH BRITISH AND GERMANS PRETENDING TO SPEAK FOR ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR. IN ADDITION, DECISION TAKEN OUTSIDE ICFTU, ETUC OR ANY OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONTEXT. THEREFORE, TO DATE CISL AND UIL
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HAVE NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE WHATSOEVER AND ARE NOT RPT NOT COMMITTED

TO THE JANUARY MEETING. THEY MAY DISCUSS ISSUE FURTHER AT THIS WEEK'S TUC CONGRESS WHERE BOTH EXPECTED TO BE REPRESENTED.

2. POINTS STRESSED BY BADUEL WERE THE FOLLOWING : (A) PARTICIPANTS IN VIENNA MEETING HAD NO AUTHORITY TO COMMIT ITALIANS WHO NOT PRESENT. THEY REPRESENTED NO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ENTITY. ITALIANS ARE NOT SECOND CLASS MEMBERS OF EUROPE TO BE INFORMED AFTER DECISIONS ARE REACHED. BASIC ATTITUDE EXPRESSED IS CONCERN THAT TUC AND DGB ARROGATING TO THEMSELVES LABOR LEADERSHIP IN WESTERN EUROPE WITHOUT PARTICIPATION ITALIANS, FRENCH OR OTHERS. IN FACT, CIFTU AND THE ETUC ARE PROPER BODIES FOR DELIBERATION OF EAST-WEST ISSUES. THIS ISSUE EVEN MORE IRKSOME WHEN IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE CGIL HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF VIENNA PROCEEDINGS BY AUCCTU AND OTHER SOVIET UNION CONTACTS. (B) EAST-WEST MEETING SHOULD BE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE WHERE CGIL ALREADY PRESENT AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING ITS INVOLVEMENT AVOIDED. (C) CISL COULD NOT ACCEPT VISIT OF EITHER FEATHER OR VETTER IN ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS. THE CISL OR EVEN FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL MIGHT IN FACT INVITE SOMEONE BUT ANY DIFFERENCES AMONG ITALIANS REGARDING POSSIBLE JANUARY CONFERENCE WILL BE WORKED OUT AMONG ITALIANS WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION. (D) FINALLY, UNORGANIZED METHOD OF PREPARATION FOR THIS PROPOSED MEETING WILL MAKE ANY COORDINATION AMONG WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS ON AGENDA OR EVEN PARTICIPATION (CGIL/CGT QUESTION) EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. IN ESSENCE PRELIMINARY CISL REACTION TO EAST-WEST CONFERENCE PROBABLY NEGATIVE BECAUSE CISL CUT OUT OF DELIBERATIONS. ALSO QUESTION OF CGIL REPRESENTATION MAY CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR ITALIANS WHICH EASILY AVOIDED IF MEETING HELD AS INTEGRAL PART OF ILO REGIONAL MEETING BETWEEN WORKER REPS ONLY. ITALIANS APPARENTLY NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS VIENNA DECISION. IF BRITIS/GERMAN/SCANDINAVIAN INITIATIVE BECOMES CUSTOMARY, ITALIAN ROLE IN EAST-WEST DIALOGUE OR IN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION AFFAIRS FOR THAT MATTER, WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED. ALSO CGIL HAS APPARENTLY BEEN KEPT INFORMED ALL ALONG THUS GIVING RISE TO FEARS THAT CGIL MIGHT BECOME PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR ITALIAN LABOR ON THE EUROPEAN SCENE.

4. IN ANOTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENT THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARIES GENERAL LAMA, STORTI AND VANNI MAY TRAVEL MOSCOW IN OCTOBER FOR MEETING WITH AUCCTU CHIEF SHELEPIN. THIS WOULD BE THEIR SECOND TRIP TO MOSCOW WITHIN A YEAR AND WOULD LIKELY BE FOLLOWED BY CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO HOST SHELEPIN IN ITALY. VOLPE

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